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ARC Conference - AS-6 Power Supply

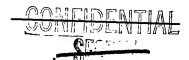
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1. On 5 June 1958, a visit was made to the Handquarters of the Atomic Energy Commission, Germatown, Haryland, to discuss the Immability of samelest yower supply for the AS-6. Perticipating in the discussions were:

Col. J. L. Arestrong, Chief, Aircraft Reactor Branch, AEC

- 2. The AE-6 nover problem was explained in detail to Col. Armstrong by

 [A 30-pound weight limit for the power supply (including bettery) and a completion date of June 1959 were fixed, at least for the purposes of discussion. Col. Armstrong described a small ten-sett thermoccupie bettery charger which is now under development at Martin. The Mestinghouse thermoccupie used in this device now has an efficiency of 85 and efficiencies of 195 or 295 are foreseable in the next few years. Col. Armstrong indicated that the nuclear environment actually improved the thermoccupie's efficiency. According to Col. Armstrong, a power source meeting our specifications could be developed by June 1959, if a sufficiently high priority is assigned. A request for this development, or for a 30 to 45 day study, should come from the E/CI to the Chairman of the AEC.
- 3. AKC Punds are ordinarily used for equipment developments unde on behalf of other government agamcies, but other arrangements may be necessary if the short development time increases the cost to beyond what the FY 59 AEC beignt can stand. It was suggested that our letter indicate that CIA funds are available to support this program if necessary. Col. Areatrong at first estimated that the development of the device meeting our specifications would probably cost in the vicinity of \$3,000,000 hat later modified this figure to shout \$2,000,000, and them admitted no realistic estimate is possible without further study. He agreed to determine a probable cost figure by about 26 June. (On 11 June Col. Areatrong notified the writer by telephone that a 29½ 1b. device could probably be developed by ment spring at a cost of about \$250,000 for the first unit.)



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- The ABC is willing to develop both elements of the AB-6 power supply, i.e., nuclear charger and the hattery, since both units are so closely interdependent. Onl. Armstrong described the ABC's experience with fullure of michal cadmium batteries due to imperities and your quality control. He said that the Rundia Corporation in Albergaugus, New Marico, is a qualified producer of melear devices with whom the ABC has worked in the past.
- 5. Col. Amentions felt that among the principal problems to be overcome in this development were the extremely high surface temperature of the basic charger, the radiation heard to the person installing the AS-6, and the one-year life requirement of the power source.
- 6. It was agreed that a continuing listens would be set up between this branch and the Aircraft Resetor Branch of the AEC.

OC-E/ReD-EP/NJS:mjr (16 June 1958)
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